

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary - Public

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Australia

Post: Canberra

Commercial Cultivation of GM Canola Approved in 3rd Australian State

Report Categories:

Biotechnology

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

The Western Australian Agriculture and Food Minister has approved an exemption order under the State's "Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003" to permit the cultivation of GM canola.

General Information:

Following successful commercial growing and segregation trials conducted in 2009, on January 25, 2010 the Western Australian Agriculture and Food Minister approved an exemption order under that State's *Genetically Modified Crops Free Areas Act 2003* to permit the cultivation of GM canola varieties approved by the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.

Western Australia is Australia's biggest producer of canola and this announcement brings it into line with two other major grain-growing states, NSW & Victoria, who lifted their moratoria on growing GM canola in 2008. South Australia remains the only canola-producing state which does not allow the cultivation of GM varieties. There are media reports of farm groups and university experts calling for South Australia to lift the ban.

A full copy of the WA Government's announcement can be found at:

<http://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/WACabinetMinistersSearch.aspx?ItemId=133050&minister=Redman&admin=Barnett>